UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/358
S/1994/1019
1 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Item 71 of the provisional agenda*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the dangerous escalation of border incidents provoked by the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/49/150.

Annex

Statement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued on 31 August 1994

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out with grave concern the dangerous escalation of border incidents by the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the area towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns most energetically the grave and tragic incidents that took place on 20 and 29 August 1994 in which Yugoslav citizens Nebojsa Martinovic, from Pec, and Goran Stevanovic, from Leksovac, were killed.

On 29 August 1994, around 7.30 p.m., in the vicinity of the Presevo border crossing, 250 metres inside the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a border patrol of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia killed Goran Stevanovic. After the killing, the members of the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia entered the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and removed the body of the killed Stevanovic from the scene.

This was the second tragic incident in the last 10 days in which a Yugoslav citizen was killed. On 20 August 1994, in the Jazince border area, a Macedonian border patrol killed unarmed civilian Nebojsa Martinovic and wounded another civilian, although they offered no resistance.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs warns that the killing of unarmed civilians, citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by the members of the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia cannot be justified and that they constitute a dangerous escalation of the erroneous policy and a blow to the efforts aimed at normalizing relations.

By such dangerous border incidents and provocations, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is trying to draw the attention of the international public to the concocted danger from the north, in order to justify the presence of foreign troops in its territory and to extort the lifting of the arms embargo.

All the responsibility for the death of two and the wounding of one Yugoslav citizen is borne exclusively by the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Proceeding from its principled option for normalization of relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and re-establishing the disrupted flows, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia rightly expects the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to abandon its policy of provocation, take the necessary measures for preventing border incidents, ensure a normal border regime and punish those responsible for tragic consequences.